

To: Smith, Bonnie[smith.bonnie@epa.gov]
From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Tue 2/11/2014 11:17:21 PM
Subject: Re: request from HQ for what we can say...

Glory!

From: Smith, Bonnie
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5:44:30 PM
To: Ferrell, Mark
Subject: request from HQ for what we can say...

Mark,

Request: desk statement written as information update for residents and press for HQ - - one about the site cleanup and one about home testing.

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, Bonnie
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5:37 PM
To: Behringer, Caroline; Hull, George; Jones, Enesta; Bloomgren, David
Cc: schaffer, joan; White, Terri-A
Subject: RE: West Va Gov's PRESS CONFERENCE - Two announcements related to the Spill in West Va. TODAY 4:45 p.m.

Caroline,

You asked: Can we prepare a statement.

Yes. I'm glad to work with Terri tomorrow morning and send a draft to you based on the hot sites reports below + previous information about EPA's role in home testing and Safe Drinking Water requirements. There has been a lot of EPA effort by our Drinking Water experts here related to the question of how best to design a statistically valid home testing study. We may want to do two - one about the site and one about home testing. See below. Perhaps we can use them as 'information update' for residents and the press?

EPA's role - re: press conference - - To my knowledge, EPA was not invited to speak.

-bonnie
215-814-5543

Hot Sites Report from Fran Burns, R3

Tue 2/11/2014 4:11 PM

Vicky Binetti of Region 3's Water Program reported that we understand that Gov. Tomblin will shortly make an announcement regarding the start of a residential drinking water sampling program. In addition, sampling results at the intake of the West Virginia American Water Company drinking water plant continue to be at non-detectable levels for MCHM (results through morning of February 10th).. OSC Dennis Matlock reported that the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is contracting an expert to complete 3-D mapping of the facility. CSB is aiming to complete their investigation by February 14.

The facility received a permit from WV Department of Health to excavate in the ditch area between the abandoned railroad and Barlow Road. In addition, the flow rate of the off-site water into the containment area continues to decrease, now estimated at 5 gallons per minute. A crew continues to oversee water pumping operations.

While maintaining the boom located along the facility's shoreline, the facility discovered a brown mass in the river that floated to the surface. The mass had no MCHM odor. A sample was collected from the mass.

Monday 2/10/14 3:22 PM

Vicky Binetti of Region 3's Water Program reported that as of this morning, the design of the residential sampling study that the Governor has directed has not been completely determined, but the study is expected to begin very soon. Sampling results from West Virginia American Water's intake on the Elk River continue to show (through February 8) that MCHM is not at detectable levels.

OSC Dennis Matlock reported that the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is continuing their investigation. CSB is working with the facility to obtain the section of tank 396 that breached so they can test the tank for its metallurgical properties and physical composition. CSB's completed study will recommend requirements for tank composition and specifications.

WVDEP plans to proceed with remediation efforts following removal of the MCHM tanks from the facility. The remediation will assess if the MCHM is pooled in the substructure of the containment pad and will determine the appropriate remediation actions.

The facility estimates that the volume of off-site water flowing into the containment area has slightly decreased to approximately 700 gallons per hour. A crew remains on-site to oversee water pumping operations where required. In addition, the facility's contractor continues to collect water samples from the trench area for an on-going treatability study of the water.

The facility continues to inspect and maintain the boom in the Elk River, and has replaced some damaged boom. State OSHA is on-site to inspect conditions of work zones.

Sat, 2/8/14 3:39 PM

Vicky Binetti of Region 3's Water Program reported that yesterday EPA had a lengthy call on a potential design for the residential drinking water study. WV Gov. Tomblin had directed the WV Bureau of Public Health (WVBPH) to develop this study. EPA participants (statisticians and contaminant expert from the Office of Water, Region 3 Water Division staff) provided advice and input on the sampling strategy for the proposed study, potential constraints, and potential enhancements, as well as considerations for implementation. Also participating were Dr. Loretta Haddy, WV State Epidemiologist; Lt. Greg Grant and Michael Kitts, WV National Guard; Sherry Burrer, CDC epidemiologist; and Bob Helverson and Karl Markiewicz of ATSDR-CDC/Region 3.

EPA provided a summary of our discussion in the form of a "framework." Shortly thereafter, EPA heard from Walt Ivey (WV BPH, Director of the Drinking Water Program) that the Governor is seeking an almost immediate start to the study, so our discussion was timely. The team needs to develop many details, but the team's discussion will be the basis for the study's general design. The study also may use external parties (i.e., other than state staff) to implement parts of the study.

OSC Dennis Matlock reported that CEC completed purging monitoring wells 3, 4, 5, and 6. These monitoring wells are located at the base of the slope behind the facility, downgradient of the tank farm. Following recharge, samples were collected from all four wells. WVDEP and EPA collected split samples from each of the wells. WVDEP noted a petroleum odor in the water in all four wells; however, no MCHM odor was detected in the well water.

A crew remains on site to oversee water pumping operations as needed. The pipe at the front of the containment wall is now estimated to be discharging 1,000 gallons of water per hour. The source of the water is still unknown. In addition, the facility continues to inspect and maintain the boom in the Elk River.

The facility has pumped approximately 100,000 gallons of water, which remains staged at the Poca facility pending treatment and/or disposal. The facility estimates that all product on-site will be shipped off-

site by March 15.

-----Original Message-----

From: Behringer, Caroline

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5:07 PM

To: Smith, Bonnie; Hull, George; Jones, Enesta; Bloomgren, David

Cc: schaffer, joan; White, Terri-A

Subject: Re: West Va Gov's PRESS CONFERENCE - Two announcements related to the Spill in West Va. TODAY 4:45 p.m.

Can we prepare a statement? What's our role?

Caroline Behringer

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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From: Smith, Bonnie

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:02:51 PM

To: Behringer, Caroline; Hull, George; Jones, Enesta; Bloomgren, David

Cc: schaffer, joan; White, Terri-A

Subject: West Va Gov's PRESS CONFERENCE - Two announcements related to the Spill in West Va. TODAY 4:45 p.m.

From Mark Ferrell, our West Va. State and Congressional Liaison

I anticipate we will get follow-up calls related to both announcements.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ferrell, Mark

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:24 PM

To: White, Terri-A; schaffer, joan; Seneca, Roy; Smith, Bonnie

Subject: Gov's presser - 4:45

Will announce home testing contractor plus DEP will update on slurry spill.

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